



Small Scale Solutions for your Farm

Spring Development



Do You Have Problems with:

- Seeps or wet areas in your pasture
- Cattle knee deep in mud while trying to drink out of a spring
- Sufficient drinking water supplies for your livestock
- Getting water to remote areas of your fields, where electricity is not available

Springs or seeps can be developed to provide clean drinking water for livestock.



A spring can be developed to supply good clean water to livestock

Purposes and Benefits of Spring Development

- A clean, free source of water
- Pumps and electricity are usually not needed
- Doesn't freeze in the winter
- Source of water for more than one spot
- Water is cool in the summer and warm in the winter, which will encourage cattle to drink more water.
- Good water distributions improves grazing and animal health
- Even a small spring flowing all the time can provide a lot of water. For example, a spring flowing at 1/2 gallon per minute yields 720 gallons in a day. With a tank for storage, this could easily provide drinking water for 10 or more beef cows.





How to Maintain the Practice:

Seeps are easy to maintain.

- Keep livestock and farm equipment off the area around the spring development.
- Divert surface water away from the spring box. Surface water usually has sediments and could contaminate the spring.
- Clean the settling basin out once or twice a year.
- Check for leaks in pipes and the spring box.
- Check the overflow pipe to make sure it is not clogged.

Associated Costs

Spring development costs are relatively inexpensive compared to water wells or ponds.

Pumps and electricity are usually not required. Some of the costs for developing a spring are:

- Digging with a backhoe
- Gravel
- Pipe
- Spring box



A spring development can supply water to more than one pasture



Developing a spring





Technical and Financial Help Is Available

Whether you measure your farm in terms of feet or acres, your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can help you develop a Conservation Plan to conserve, maintain, and restore the natural resources on your land and improve the long-term health of your operation.

There is no charge for our assistance. Simply contact your local office to set up an appointment. You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance. Your NRCS office will explain any programs that are available so you can make the best decision for your operation. All NRCS programs and services are voluntary.

For More Information

Visit the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) or visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find your local NRCS office. You can also check with your local USDA Service Center, then make an appointment to determine next steps for your conservation goals.

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NRCS conservationist assisting small scale farmer with developing a customized conservation plan.

